

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
MINEMURA et al. )  
Application Number: To be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: INFORMATION REPRODUCING METHOD AND )  
INFORMATION REPRODUCING APPARATUS )  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. HIRA.0142 )

Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**REQUEST FOR PRIORITY  
UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 119  
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Sir:

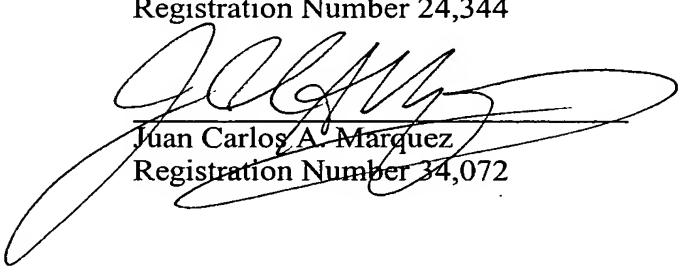
In the matter of the above-captioned application for a United States patent, notice is hereby given that the Applicant claims the priority date of October 31, 2003, the filing date of the corresponding Japanese patent application 2003-372885.

A certified copy of Japanese patent application 2003-372885 is being submitted herewith. Acknowledgment of receipt of the certified copy is respectfully requested in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
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( Translation )

JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

This is to certify that the annexed is a true copy of  
the following application as filed with this Office.

Date of Application:      October 31, 2003

Application Number:      Japanese Patent Application  
                                 No. 2003-372885

Applicant(s):              Hitachi, Ltd.  
                                 Hitachi-LG Data Strage, Inc.

January 9, 2004

Commissioner,  
Japan Patent Office                      Yasuo Imai    (seal)

Certificate No. 2003-3110337